

Secrets of the 1921 Scottish Census handout

Useful online resources

National Records of Scotland website: www.nrscotland.gov.uk

For records relating to Scotland's People and history.

Quick Links to Catalogues and Indexes and Research Guides are on the home page:

- NRS online catalogue: www.nrscotland.gov.uk/catalogue
- NRS Research Guides: www.nrscotland.gov.uk/research/guides/a-z

ScotlandsPeople website: www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk

The official Scottish Government resource where you can access digital images of the open census records as well as, statutory registers of births, deaths and marriages; Old Parish Registers; legal records and more. Once you have registered an account on the site, you can search the indexes for free and pay to view the images.

- Our charges: www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk/content/our-charges
- Advanced people search: www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk/advanced-search
- Quick people search: www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk/quick-people-search
- Technical help for viewing images: www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk/technical-help/image-viewer-functions

Find my past: www.findmypast.co.uk/

For records of the 1921 census for England and Wales and more:

NRS and ScotlandsPeople record and research guides

For using census returns, understanding parishes and districts and a glossary of occupations:

- www.nrscotland.gov.uk/research/guides/census-records
- www.nrscotland.gov.uk/research/research-guides/research-guides-a-z/census-records/1921-census. This guide includes:
 - The instructions to 'Instructions to Registrars and Enumerators'. Crown copyright, NRS, GRO6/478/1/29, which you can download as a PDF.
 - Large-size images of the Specimen sample of Schedule A, 1921 census, Scotland. Crown copyright, NRS, GRO6/478/3/1.
 - A link to the 1921 census occupations on Histpop - the Online Historical Population Reports website.
 - Street indexes for the 1921 census for Aberdeen, Dundee, Dunfermline, Edinburgh, Glasgow, the Hebrides, Inverness, Kirkcaldy, Montrose and Perth which can be downloaded as PDFs.
- www.nrscotland.gov.uk/research/guides/statutory-registers/registration-districts
- www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk/guides/census-returns
- www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk/guides/research-guides/parishes-and-districts
- www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk/glossary

NRS articles, news and features

- www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk/news-and-features
- <https://blog.nrscotland.gov.uk/>

Palaeography

- Scottish Handwriting website: online tuition in palaeography for historians, genealogists and other researchers for help reading manuscript historical records written in Scotland: www.scottishhandwriting.com
- ScotlandsPeople guidance:
 - www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk/guides/research-guides/reading-older-handwriting
 - www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk/glossary
- University of Glasgow course: www.futurelearn.com/courses/ems-palaeography
- Dictionary of Scots language: for tracking down the meaning and historical origin of Scots words: www.dsl.ac.uk

Useful Publications

- 'Tracing Your Scottish Ancestors: The Official Guide'. 7th edition, (Birlinn, 2020). Available in both paperback and e-book versions.
- Histpop - the Online Historical Population Reports website: www.histpop.org/ohpr/servlet. Official reports for the 1801 to 1931 censuses provide useful background information about the taking of the census, interesting analyses of the results and statistical tables.
- National Library of Scotland Internet Archive, Scottish Directories: includes Post Office Directories: <https://archive.org/details/scottishdirectories>

Keep up-to-date

You can find out more about family and historical research at ScotlandsPeople and you can keep up-to-date with news and events by subscribing to our newsletter and following ScotlandsPeople on Facebook and Twitter:
<https://www.facebook.com/ScotlandsPeople/>
[@ScotlandsPeople](https://twitter.com/ScotlandsPeople).

Contact us

If you have any questions, please get in touch with us at: education@nrscotland.gov.uk